



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

April 21, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: Departmental Elements

FROM: John Spitaleri Shaw
Assistant Secretary for
Environment, Safety and Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JSS", is written over the printed name and title of John Spitaleri Shaw.

SUBJECT: Earth Day Message

On April 22, 2005, the Nation will once again demonstrate its commitment to the environment with the celebration of Earth Day. We at DOE should be proud of the progress we have made in protecting human health and safeguarding the natural environment around DOE sites since the first Earth Day 35 years ago.

Our goal at DOE is to ensure that environmental concerns are factored into all of our planning and decision making. To make this happen, we depend on environmental management systems and pollution prevention programs. I urge all Program Secretarial Officers to be sure that environmental management systems are in place at all the sites for which they have responsibility by December 31, 2005, as required by both Executive Order and DOE Order.

The President's Management Council found that leadership in all federal agencies needed to "demonstrate a clearer and more sustained commitment to achieve and maintain compliance." Through this message, I want to underscore the importance that I place on complying with environmental requirements applicable to our facilities, and urge all managers to do so as well. But I believe we can do better than that. By building sound pollution prevention measures into our environmental management systems, we can attain "beyond compliance" results that help reduce the environmental footprint as well as the life-cycle costs of our facilities and operations.

To note our progress, and reaffirm DOE's commitment to the sound stewardship of the environmental resources entrusted to us, we will be planting a tree on the grounds of the Forrestal Building. I encourage all DOE and contractor employees to participate in this and the many other Earth Day activities at DOE Headquarters and field sites.